

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/552,072

Examiner

Ha D. Ho

Applicant(s)

AMAMIYA ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 11/23/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8,11-16,18-23 and 26-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's Amendment filed on 11/23/07. Claims 2, 9, 10, 17, 24, 25 and 31-58 have been canceled accordingly.
2. Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, 18-23 and 26-30 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter in claim 2. Claims 8 and 11 were indicated allowable and have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1. Claim 16 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter in claim 17. Claims 23 and 26 were indicated allowable and have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 16.

The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a shift control system as defined by the limitations of claims 1, 8, 11, 16, 23 and 26, including shift means, restriction means, rotation control means, count means and position setting means; wherein, as recited in claims 1 and 16, the position setting means sets the reference position of the actuator by detecting that the count value obtained by the count means is in a state where a minimum value or a maximum value of the count value is constant for a predetermined period of time; wherein, as recited in claims 8 and 23, the position setting means sets a reference position of the actuator corresponding to another shift range different from the endmost shift range, based on a rotatable amount of the actuator between the endmost shift range and another shift range; and wherein, as recited in claims 11 and 26, the position setting means sets a reference position

of the actuator corresponding to another shift range at a predetermined timing in order to correct a backlash due to secular change of the shift means or the restriction means.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is 571-272-7091. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/HDH/
(571) 272-7091
December 21, 2007

/Ha D. Ho/
Primary Examiner, A.U. 3681